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# PATENT SPECIFICATION

175,926

Application Date: May 11, 1921. No. 13,388/21.

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## PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

### An Appliance for Teaching Cricket.

I, FRANCIS EDEN LACEY, of Lord's Cricket Ground, and 22, Elm Tree Road, St. John's Wood, N.W. 8, of English nationality, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

An appliance for teaching cricket which I desire to be known as the M.C.C. dumb cricket tutor is a new means of correcting and helping to eradicate faults which are known to exist by the coach but which to the pupil are not always apparent. The cause and effect of these faults are appreciated by the pupil more quickly than tuition in a net and it is claimed that a lasting impression, is made upon his mind. Further, the intelligent pupil can, by making careful use of the instrument, rid himself of many serious mistakes and model himself on correct lines.

The appliance will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which Fig. 1 represents a side elevation of the appliance and Fig. 2 shews the plan of the appliance and the lines of the probable flight of the ball, to which the apparatus is adjustable, the base 1 which is composed of a piece of 7" x 3" x 3'-6" oak with a front cross piece 2, of 4" x 2" x 3'-8" deal, are both splayed at ends and bolted to the cross-piece, the steel flange 3 serving as base to upright 5. A hole is bored on the rear, splayed to receive an iron pin 4, and a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " eye-bolt 4<sup>a</sup> through oak base 2'-0" from front is provided to take wire support to steel upright 5. The steel upright 5 is composed of one piece of 4'-0" x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " diam. steel tubing, with telescoping upright 6, 5'-6" x 1" diam., steel tubing, which is ash plugged the full length for stiffening purposes. The uprights 5 and 6 are

governed by the pin 7 which falls into slots to govern the swing of the arm 8, 9 sideways, this is assisted by clip 10 45 which, when tightened, grips the up-rights 5 and 6 together, which prevents movement up or down of the upright 6 and sideway movement of the arm 8, 9. A T-piece 11 is brazed on 1'-0" from top of upright 6 and to which is bolted the stop-hinge 12 to the horizontal arm 8, the end of which is split and a clip 13 brazed on, tightened by wing-nut to prevent arm 9 from moving. The extending 55 arm 9 telescopes with arm 8 to adjust for length and reach according to the height of pupil. At the end of arm 9 is inserted a loose split-ring 14 to which is attached a spiral spring 15, 8" x  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to which is 60 then fixed a swivel 16 which takes the gimp or gut, length of which is adjusted by small brass adjuster 17 for regulating the height of the ball 18 from the ground. At the top of upright 6 is attached a 65 pronged socket 20 to receive strainer 21 of wire support to arm 8, 9 the arm 9 being ash plugged. The upright 5 and horizontal arm 8 have a small hook brazed on to take the supporting wires. Fitting 70 22 is a split socket, for purpose of adjustment, with projecting prong to receive the stop-hinged bar 23 which is 1'-6" long by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " diam. steel tubing, to which is loosely bolted with split spring washer 75 24 a cross-piece bar 25, 2'-0" long by  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diam. steel tubing. Bars 23 and 25 are rubber covered to protect the bat in the event of impact.

It is advisable to erect a net in front 80 of the appliance to receive the flight and force of the ball after being struck.

Dated this 9th day of May, 1921.

F. E. LACEY,

## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

## An Appliance for Teaching Cricket.

I, FRANCIS EDEN LACEY, of Lord's Cricket Ground, N.W. 8, and of 22, Elm Tree Road, St. John's Wood, of English nationality, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to that class of appliance for practising cricket wherein a ball is suspended from a support by means of a flexible member.

My appliance is a new means of enabling a batsman, by himself, to eradicate faults. Their cause and effects are thus appreciated by him more quickly than by tuition at the nets because it fixes the central idea that the ball is making a line that the bat must meet. In short it demonstrates the principle of correct batting. A means is also provided for keeping the upward movement of the bat, prior to the stroke, within proper limits.

The appliance will be described with reference to the drawings accompanying my Provisional Specification in which Fig. 1 represents a side elevation of the appliance, and Fig. 2 shews the plan of the appliance and the lines of the flight of the ball to which the apparatus is adjustable.

The base 1 which is composed of a piece of 7" x 3" x 3'-6" oak, with a front cross-piece 2 of 4" x 2" x 3'-8" deal, are both splayed at the ends and bolted to the cross-piece, the steel flange 3 serving as base to the upright 5. A hole is bored at the rear of the base, in a slanting direction, to receive an iron pin 4, and a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " eye-bolt 4<sup>a</sup> is fixed to oak base 2'-0" from front to take wire support to steel upright 5. The steel upright 5 is composed of one piece of 4'-0" x  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " diam. steel tubing, with telescoping upright 6, 5'-6" x 1" diam. steel tubing, which is ash plugged the full length for stiffening purposes. The uprights 5 and 6 are adjusted by the pin 7 which falls into slots to govern the swing of the arm 8, 9 sideways. This is assisted by the clip 10 which, when tightened, grips the uprights 5 and 6 together, which prevents movement up or down of the rod 6 and sideways movement of the arm 8, 9. A tee-piece 11 is brazed on 1'-0" from top of upright 6,

to which is bolted the stop-hinge 12 of the horizontal arm 8, the end of which is split and a clip 13 brazed on and tightened by a wing-nut to prevent arm 9 from moving. The extending arm 9 telescopes with arm 8 to adjust for length and reach according to the height of pupil. At the end of arm 9 is inserted a loose split-ring 14 to which is attached a spiral spring 15, 8" x  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to which is then fixed a swivel 16 which takes the gimp or gut, the length of which is adjusted by a small brass adjuster 17 for regulating the height of the ball 18 from the ground. At top of upright 6 is attached a pronged socket 20, to receive strainer 21, of wire support to arm 8, 9, the arm 9 being ash plugged. The upright 5 and horizontal arm 8 have a small hook brazed on to take the supporting wires. Fitting 22 is a split socket for the purpose of adjustment, with projecting prong to receive the stop-hinged bar 23 which is 18" long by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " diam. steel tubing to which is loosely bolted with split spring washer 24, a cross-piece bar 25, 2 ft. long by  $\frac{3}{8}$ " diam. steel tubing. Bars 23 and 25 are rubber covered to protect the bat in the event of impact.

A net is advisable, placed within 3 feet of the ball to receive the force of the ball when hit.

It is to be understood that the dimensions mentioned above may be varied to suit requirements.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. An appliance for teaching cricket having an adjustable or telescoping upright on a wooden base, at end of which upright is attached a horizontal arm, also adjustable or telescopic, at end of which is attached, through a split-ring, an adjustable cord or gut with spring and ball attached.

2. In apparatus according to Claim 1. the provision of bars, such as 23 and 25 Fig. 1, to prevent the pupil from bringing up the bat above a certain height, said bars being preferably adjustable in height.

3. In apparatus according to Claim 2, mounting the bar, such as 25, on a loose split spring washer or similar fitting to enable it to move upwards if struck, thus  
5 indicating that the bat has been lifted too high.
4. In apparatus according to Claim 1, providing means such as clip 10, Fig. 1, for fixing the adjustable upright 6, after  
10 it has been turned either to the right or left thus bringing the ball into one or other of the positions where it is likely to come when playing the game of cricket.
5. In apparatus according to Claim 4, the provision of three lines on the ground 15 to indicate the line of flight of the ball toward the off, middle or leg stumps.
6. In apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, the provision of a net in front of the apparatus to take the  
20 impact of the ball before it reaches the limit of its movement, as determined by the string to which it is attached.
7. An apparatus for teaching cricket as described above and as illustrated by the  
25 accompanying drawings.

Dated the 1st day of December, 1921.

FRANCIS E. LACEY.



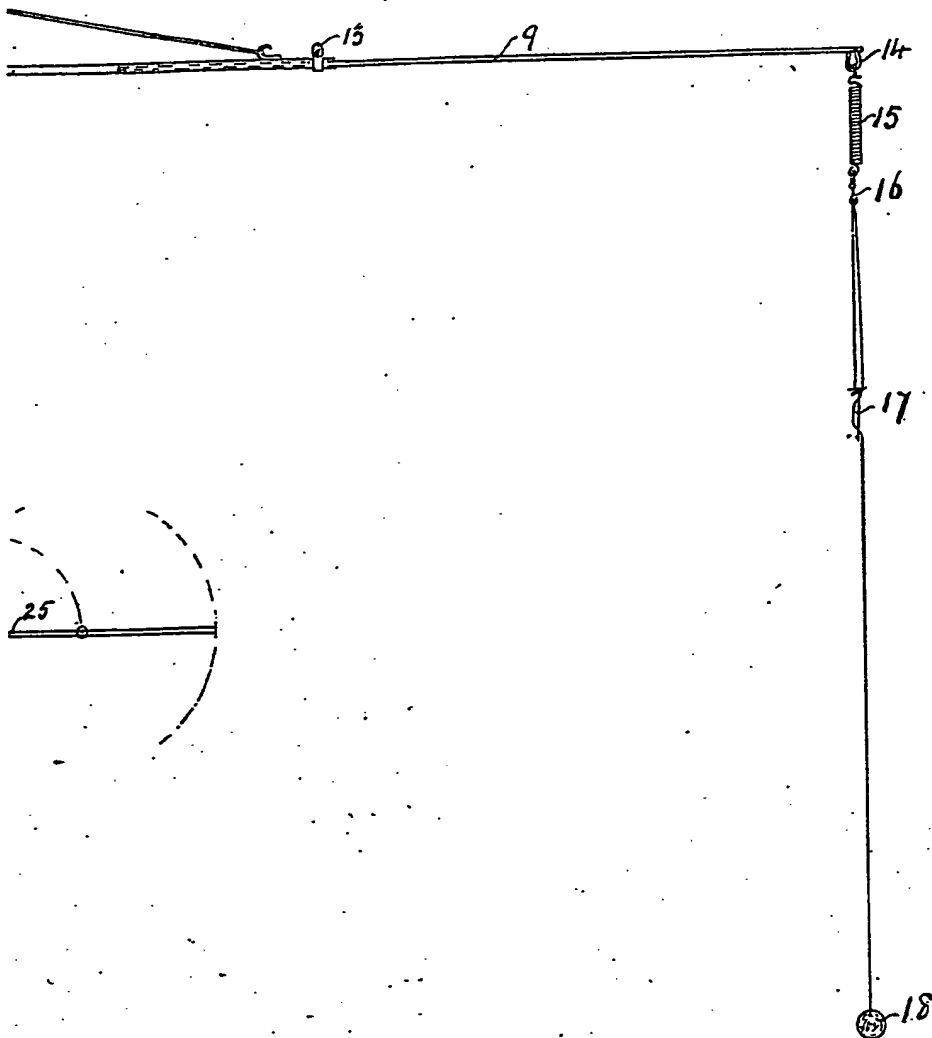
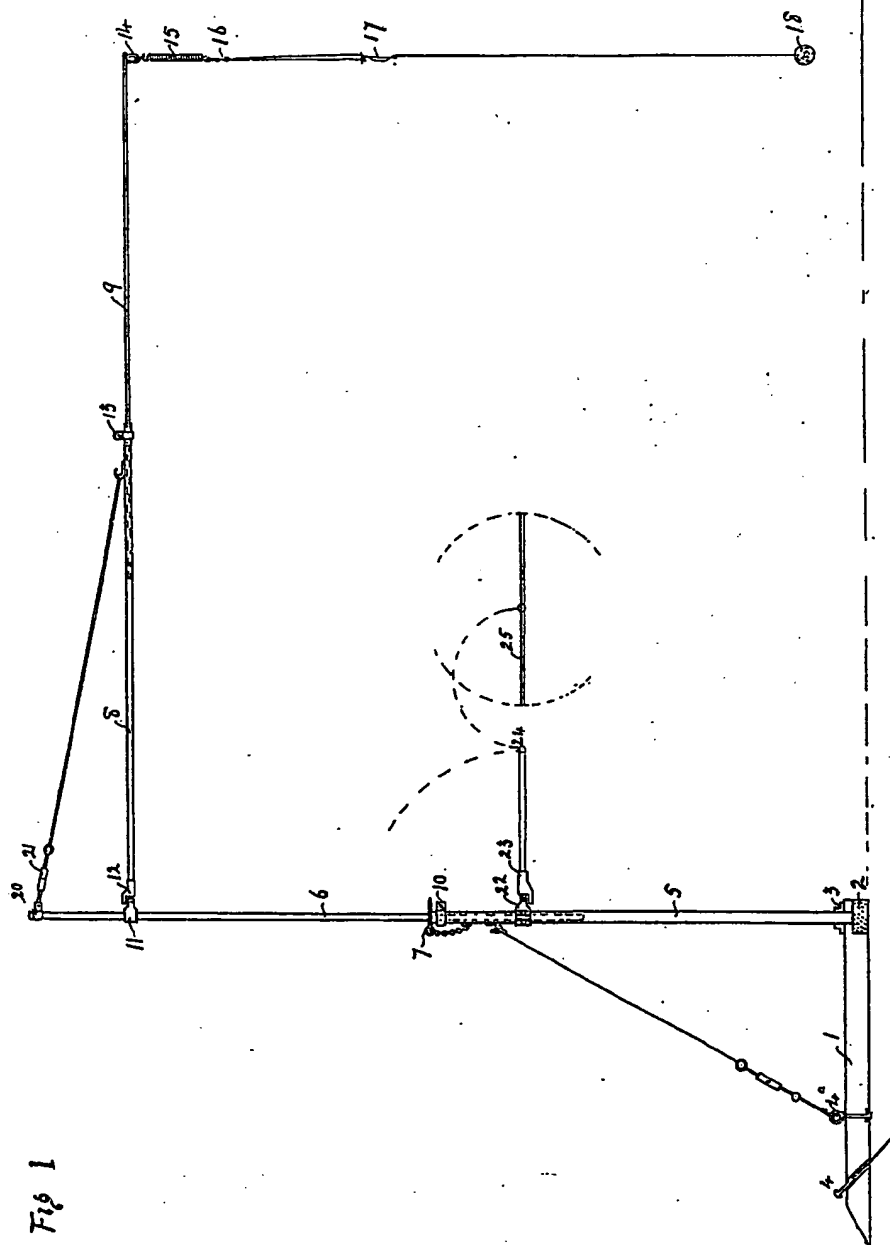


Fig 1



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale]

Fig. 2

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale]

